



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Criminal Complaint Filed Against Lovington Woman on State Tax Charges

SANTA FE – A criminal complaint was filed in Lea County Magistrate Court in Lovington on July 3, 2007 charging Irene Foster, of Lovington, with false statement and fraud and computer access with the intent to defraud or embezzle in connection with filing false State of New Mexico Personal Income Tax Returns.

The Fifth Judicial District Attorney charged Irene Foster, age 52, a bookkeeper and tax return preparer, with twelve counts of knowingly and willfully filing false and fraudulent New Mexico Personal Income Tax Returns. The returns were filed between July 2, 2004 and March 11, 2005. The complaint also states that Foster knowingly and willfully accessed a computer and the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Internet-based electronic filing program, in order to electronically file the twelve false and fraudulent returns. Each of the false statement charges carries a possible fine of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment of six months. Each of the computer access charges carries a possible fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment of eighteen months.

Foster allegedly used the names of friends, clients, family members, as well as fictitious names on the twelve returns. It is also alleged that Foster used valid and invalid Social Security numbers on the returns, and in some cases used the Social Security numbers of deceased individuals. The complaint further alleges that some of the Social Security numbers belonged to individuals who neither lived in New Mexico nor earned income in New Mexico.

Over the course of the last two years, the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department has been conducting the investigation into the allegations that resulted in the charges being filed against Foster.

To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.